

## Nominate a Heritage Asset

### The Kidneys, Meadow Lane



1. <b>WHAT IS IT?</b> Is it one of the following?	Tick
a <b>building or group of buildings</b>	
a <b>monument or site (an area of archaeological remains or a structure other than a building)</b>	
a <b>place (e.g. a street, park, garden or natural space)</b>	y
a <b>landscape (an area defined by visual features or character, e.g. a city centre, village, suburb or field system)</b>	

2. <b>WHY IS IT INTERESTING?</b> Is it interesting in any of the following ways?	Tick / Rank
<b>Historic interest</b> – a well documented association with a person, event, episode of history, or local industry	y
<b>Archaeological interest</b> – firm evidence of potential to reveal more about the human past through further study	
<b>Architectural interest</b> – an example of an architectural style, a building of particular use, a technique of building, or use of materials	
<b>Artistic interest</b> – It includes artistic endeavour to communicate meaning or use of design (including landscape design) to enhance appearance	
<p>What is it about the asset that provides this interest?</p> <p><b>Historic interest:</b> The kidneys (original the great and lesser kidneys) were small islands on the edge of the River Thames used as open grazing land that survived relatively unaltered from the middle ages into the 19<sup>th</sup> century. During the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century they were used by the city council as a municipal rubbish tip, with deliver of waste by barge. However they have subsequently been returned to a natural state and now form a nature park on the edge of the East Oxford suburb with views of the river. The very southern tip of land in the Kidneys is a Site of Special Scientific Interest as a surviving area of lowland water meadow supporting a colony of Snake's Head Fritillaries. Groups of pollarded willows and alders run along the banks of the Cherwell.</p>	

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<b>3. WHY IS IT LOCALLY VALUED?</b> Is the interest of the asset <b>valued locally</b> for any of the following reasons?	Tick / Rank
<b>Association:</b> It connects us to people and events that shaped the identity or character of the area	y
<b>Illustration:</b> It illustrates an aspect of the area's past that makes an important contribution to its identity or character	y
<b>Evidence:</b> It is an important resource for understanding and learning about the area's history	
<b>Aesthetics:</b> It makes an important contribution to the positive look of the area either by design or fortuitously	y
<b>Communal:</b> It is important to the identity, cohesion, spiritual life or memory of all or part of the community	y
How is the asset locally valued as heritage? <b>Association and Illustration:</b> Due to the restoration of the former islands as semi-natural meadowland the Kidneys provide an illustration of the riverside meadows into which the East Oxford suburb expanded during the later 19 <sup>th</sup> century. Oxford's watercourses, with their willow-lined banks have inspired numerous writers and artists. <b>Aesthetics and Communal value:</b> The area provides an attractive riverside green space that has now been used by the public as accessible land for recreation for over thirty years. The green space also provides part of the attractive green setting to the river experienced by many rowers.	
<b>4. WHAT MAKES ITS LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE SPECIAL?</b> Do any of the following features make the heritage significance of the asset stand out above the surrounding environment?	Tick
<b>Age ...</b> Is it particularly old, or of a date that is significant to the local area?	y
<b>Rarity ...</b> Is it unusual in the area or a rare survival of something that was once common?	
<b>Integrity ...</b> Is it largely complete or in a near to original condition?	
<b>Group value ...</b> Is it part of a group that have a close historic, aesthetic or communal association?	y
<b>Oxford's identity ...</b> Is it important to the identity or character of the city or a particular part of it?	y
<b>Other ...</b> Is there another way you think it has special local value?	
How does this contribute to its value? <b>Age:</b> The Kidneys along with several other green spaces lining the riverbanks, provides a surviving (or in this case reconstructed element of the landscape of the river valley that has existed since, at least the later middle ages, with the river winding through numerous backwaters between green meadows, as well as the main channel. The public access to the Kidneys allows an appreciation of this landscape for the people of East Oxford. <b>Group value and Oxford's identity:</b> The Kidneys form part of the group of meadows that line the river banks and together form part of the distinctive character of Oxford as the city amidst the willow lined banks of the streams of The Rivers Thames and Cherwell, that have inspired authors, poets and artists and contributed to the city's identity.	